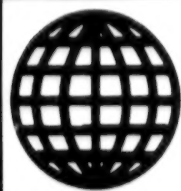


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2 February 1993



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JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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Internal Affairs

Role of Clergy in Reconstruction Detailed

93AS0402A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Full text of the speech by Mohammad Taqi Mesbah-Yazdi at a gathering of a group of scholars and theological students at the Cultural Foundation of Baqer al-'Olum in Qom.

Note: Based on certain incontrovertible evidence, the task of the guidance of the Islamic society during the time of occultation is conferred on exalted, God-fearing, religious scholars, so that, as the captains of the ship of guidance and the border guards of its sanctuary, they can protect it from the aggression of the ideological and cultural enemies and perform their duties in various trenches.

Most unfortunately, recently, following the expansive actions of the enemies of Islam, foreigners and hostile groups, unfair and unexpected attacks on the sacred sanctuary of the clerics and religion are being carried out, which, if continued, foreshadow a very dark future. In this connection, the speech of Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi, which was made on the birthday of her holiness Zahra at a gathering of seminary students and scholars of the Theological Center at the Cultural Foundation of Baqer al-'Olum, examines the dimensions of this attack and offers ways to confront it. We call to your attention this speech.

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

Thanks be to God, the Lord of Two Worlds, and greetings to Muhammad and his pure family.

The Clergy and the Invisible Conspiracies

At the threshold of the 14th year of the victory of the revolution, now that we are in the period of reconstruction of the country, that is, having experienced internal and foreign conflicts during which God Almighty removed many dangers from this revolution, now we have reached a phase when we must engage in the reconstruction of the country. This reconstruction is taking place in various dimensions, and every section has responsible officials. We ask God to grant them all success in order that they may carry out their duties in the best possible manner. One point which concerns us, that is, the clerics, as the cultural institution in the Islamic society. We must be more engaged in this section, and our main duty is summed up in this section.

This revolution is indebted to the clerics more than any other group or stratum. Today, many responsibilities of the country are conferred on the clerics. But since whatever is more valuable has more enemies, today, when the clerics have shown themselves in the country and proven their worth, a great deal of hostility toward the clerics has also begun. Of course, this existed more or less in the past as well. But with the victory of the revolution, the leadership of which was conferred on the

clerics, the importance of this institution became more clear to the enemies of Islam.

There is no time for me to explain some of the efforts that are taking place in this area; therefore, I will only mention them briefly.

Fighting Against the Clerics

A. Activities Abroad

Part of the activities against the clerics began abroad, where articles, speeches, and books are published criticizing the clerics and Islam. Sometimes the books are smuggled into the country, sold at high prices, and circulated from hand to hand. What are the methods? And what are the contents? Now there is no time for me to explain. Briefly, this is one part of the anticleric activities that take place abroad, the goal of which is to weaken Islam, the clerics as a symbol of Islam, and the guardian of Islam. Naturally, all the enemies of Islam do all they can to weaken Islam and the clerics of Islam. But hostility towards the clerics is not confined to the opposition of the foreign enemies of Islam. Internally, too, some with various motives, they have risen to fight the clerics.

B. Internal Activities

They can be divided into several groups:

1. One group belongs to the heathen or eclectic parties who after the revolution did not find a place for political activity in the political arena in the country and became isolated but engaged in underground cultural activities and planted their factors of influence in executive and nonexecutive organizations. Some changed their faces and assumed Islamic and revolutionary postures. And some are engaged in underground activities while retaining their original faces. Naturally, a person who does not believe in the principle of Islam opposes the clerics as well and makes every effort to weaken the clerics. But enmity against the clerics does not end here. There are others as well who oppose the clerics out of other motivations.

2. One group consists of those who think of the clerics as a guild made up of the unproductive consumers in this country and who have from ancient times found a place among the masses and have been able to attract the unaware masses to themselves through trickery and ruse (of course, I am quoting them) in order to take more advantage of them. Now that this revolution has become victorious with the leadership of the clerics, they think that the clerics have left no room for others and have occupied the positions that others should have occupied. For instance, there are those who held positions in the previous regime or early in the revolution. Today, the clerics have taken those positions from them, and because they have lost their stakes, they have become opponents of the clerics. In fact, it is a guild struggle. They consider themselves guilds who have a right to have a stake in this country and consider the clerics as members of a guild that is in conflict with their interests.

Suppose they would like the Majles deputy not to be a cleric, the judge not to be a cleric, and for others to occupy these positions—the university professor not to be a cleric, but one who has studied in the universities, and so forth. Hence, the motivation behind the opposition of this group to the clerics is a materialistic one, and their struggle is a guild struggle. But the fight against the clerics does not end here either.

3. There are others who have a goal, Muslims interested in Islam (of course with differences) who are certainly not the enemies of Islam and the revolution. But they do not like the clerics and oppose the clerics for various reasons. They think that the clerics were useful in the past, more or less, but today new social and historical conditions have been created which negate the need for the clerics. As an analogy, there was a time when the bazaars of our country and those of many other countries had many herbalists, who sold herbs in stores. Being an herbalist was an important profession in the bazaar. But today, with new medicines, conditions have been created in the society in which there is no longer a place for herbalists. It was a guild that was needed under certain conditions in the society, but now the conditions have changed, and there is no longer a need for this guild, and it must naturally be removed and replaced with modern pharmacies. In the same way that today we do not see the old herbalist stores, they think that the business of clerics is just such a business that must be removed and left to others—this guild must be closed down. We are facing such people.

Solutions

Of course, the situation of those who fight Islam and the clergy out of hostility is clear. We know how to deal with them. Now, whether or not we are dealing with them properly and perfectly, that is another issue. But the way to deal with them is clear.

But those who consider the clerics a bothersome guild are mistaken. Of course, we must confess that among the turbaned people there are those who consider being a cleric a job and a way to make a living. Naturally, this guild fight is between them and others who seek the world. But we do not find it our duty to defend such people who desire the survival of the clerics to ensure the survival of their own material interests. As for those who consider being a cleric a business for themselves and want to gain material profit, if they are not there one day, nothing will happen. Even if they change their clothes, nothing will happen. And those who fight over the world are like "greedy dogs" who are and shall remain of "this world." But we do not consider it a means of acquiring income. Rather, we consider it the greatest holy war that at this time is on our shoulders, and no one else is capable of it. Our understanding of being a cleric must be this: an obligation that has arisen from the absence of others who could perform it, and we have no choice but to act upon this obligation as best we can. If this is our understanding of being a cleric, and our behavior conforms to this view and this motivation, gradually it will

be proven to others that we do not bother them for our bread and butter. If a position is occupied by a cleric, it is not because he considers it a way to make a living but as a responsibility that he might even accept reluctantly. Hence, opposition to and fighting against this group is not very difficult, not complicated.

What is difficult is dealing with those who rise to fight the clerics with so-called Islamic motivation and with a view different from ours. This group takes undue advantage of our weaknesses. They place small weak points under a magnifying glass, they most likely engage in misunderstanding and misinterpretation and in any case believe that the time for the clerics has passed, that we are a dead guild and must give our place to other guilds, like the herbalists who have given their place to modern pharmacies with the appearance of modern medicine.

Hence, we have a serious problem to address. We must see whether the existence of the clerics is necessary, and if it did not exist, would it harm Islam, or is it unnecessary? What will happen if it is finished and the business of clerics is eliminated, if the turbans are removed and the seminaries and old schools are shut down?

Today, there are many (especially among the intellectuals) who do not consider the existence of the clerics necessary. Not that they are particularly hostile towards the clerics. They say: You are a guild that was necessary in earlier times, but your time has passed. Some of what you do is not necessary at all, and the rest does not require you, such as religious mourning ceremonies and participation in memorial services, weddings, and congregational prayers. In regards to congregational prayers, they do not need to be led by a cleric. Anyone who is just can do it. As for mourning and wedding ceremonies, these are superfluous ceremonies that must be eliminated. What will happen if a cleric does not participate in a celebration or mourning ceremony? In regards to religious mourning gatherings, they were not bad in the past. But today, with all the media and radio and television, there is no longer any need for it. Right now we have people who do not wear the clerical garb who sometimes deliver interesting and beneficial speeches. What is the need for a guild with such an organization and special garb?

This is an issue about which we must contemplate. If it is not really necessary, we must leave it. Now, even if we have gotten old, thank God you are young and can start other things and have a better income. But if it is necessary, we must understand it and make others understand that it is necessary. Today is a time when all issues must be discussed and researched, and speeches about them must be made and articles and books written and placed at the disposal of the public. There are actually people who do not believe the clerics are necessary. Articles should be written about this, speeches must be delivered, books must be written, and it must be made clear that if Islam is necessary, the clerics too, as specialists in understanding the truth of Islam in various

dimensions, are necessary. This is your job; the young, the energetic, the joyful, and the sincere forces must do it.

The future of the clerics is threatened. You may not take this seriously, but events in this world will show you that there is serious threat to the principle of the clergy.

Employed Methods

Enemies have various methods and mostly use accusations and the alteration of facts. But those whose opposition is not based on enmity to the principle of Islam use other methods in their fight.

1. They have come to believe that the institution of the clergy must be ended, hence, they must be weakened and lowered in the eyes of the people. Therefore, they find weaknesses in some clerics or pseudoclerics, magnify them, and make propaganda in various forms based on them. They say that the clerics occupy political positions even though they are not qualified for them, that they have neither studied for them nor have the experience for them. This is one of their subjects.

2. They state: The clergy have a fanatical and dogmatic nature and are not prepared to listen to the fair statements of others. The cleric is a person who says: This is it and nothing else; all that I understand is this and every one must follow what I say. They even have differences among themselves. Each says, The truth is what I say. They do not consent to sit together and come to an understanding, to understand what the other has to say and deal with the issues rationally. This is another weak point of the clerics and the reason that they will not be able to survive.

3. They have stuck to a sense of issues and lessons that are either absolutely useless for the society or have very little use, instead of lessons and sciences that are needed by the society. They only deal with Islamic issues and ignore the rest. And their methods of teaching and research are also inefficient and unproductive. And then in terms of the moral dimension: These are people who are selfish, fanatical, and autonomous. Moreover, moral corruption also appears in some of them, which is no less than in other guilds. Unfortunately, they have also found issues in these areas.

Out of all of these, they conclude that the existence of the clerics is not only not beneficial for the society, but it is indeed harmful. This is a thorn on the path of the progress and evolution of their society. (Of course, they do not make these statements explicitly. They do not have the courage to make such statements so frankly. But between their words, these statements are heard, and sometimes in private gatherings they even express them.)

Necessity To Defend the Clerics

Well, we are facing such a problem. Should we fight the opponents or not? Let me say that if the fight is a guild fight, it is not necessary at all. If a guild uses religion to

have an income and has made religion a means for this world, it must end. But if we determine that the clerics are necessary for the survival of Islam, it is necessary to defend it. And we all know that if Islam is to survive, it needs true Islamic experts based on Islamic sources. If there are no clerics to identify the authentic Islamic truth from the Islamic sources and explain them, there shall remain no Islam. If we defend the clerics, it is in this connection, not as a guild that has interests that we want to defend, or to support its garb or defend its appearance, turban, gown, and beard.

Method To Defend the Clerics

A. Clarification of the Issue for the People

This is an issue that must be discussed, about which articles should be written. Essentially, what is the basis for the existence of guilds and the division of labor in the society? It must become clear that every society in which a division of labor is carried out better will show more progress. These are issues that are as clear as the sun in today's sociology. Then, how could a society that wants to remain based in Islam not need a specialist guild in Islamic issues that devotes itself to research on such issues? It needs physicians and veterinarians, but it does not need clerics? This must be clarified for the people. Those falsifications should not cause the masses of the people to gradually believe that this is a superfluous guild.

Also, this issue must be clarified: Why should the clerics have a separate budget? Of course, I am not trying to respond to it now; there is no time. But I will say a few words. If the budget of the clerics becomes governmental, in its best form, it will become a government organization and will suffer from the same chaos and bureaucracy that dominate the government organizations. Where would the clergy end if it were to have such a budget, situation, and administration? Can a pure institution be based on piety?

B. Elimination of the Shortcomings of the Clergy System

In any case, one of the criticisms that they make of us is our method of teaching, our method of research, and our method of propagation. Here, I must confess that we have great shortcomings in these areas. Our reaction here must not be fanatical. Even if of all those who say these things are our enemies, we must welcome what the enemy says. We must engage in self-criticism. We must make the ideas of the enemies a mirror of our imperfections. We must see our imperfections, understand them, and try to eliminate them. What is the use of fanatically defending them? How long can covering up our faults continue? One day this curtain will be removed. We must sit and examine our own faults. Is our method of instruction really the best? Is it ideal? If it is, we should continue it, and if it is not and has problems, why should we insist on continuing it? We should look for better ways. We should find a more direct route that takes less

of our time and has a better output. Why should we insist that because in the past they did thus and so, therefore, so do we? No sir, they in the past have done "so," and we also do "so." We must find a better way. (If there are shortcomings in our methods of propagation, if the quality of sermons is not desirable, we must change them.) Is just repeating a series of memorized statements sufficient to propagate Islam? We must revise them. If we do not, sooner or later we will destroy ourselves from the root. If a day comes (God forbid) that we become like that and the people understand us to be people who do not understand what they are seeking, who do not understand their own duty, who do not understand how to perform their duty, who do not know the main objectives of being a cleric and what the reason is for the existence of the clerics, or are not committed to them, what will happen then? Our duty is to make the people understand Islam, to solve the religious problems of the people. If the people have belief problems and come to us and do not hear an answer, how will they judge us? Ten years have passed since the revolution and the religious problems of the people addressed to the community of clerics have remained unanswered. We are still engaged in saying that the people in the past did thus and so, and we do the same. We who claim to export the revolution, how many propagators have we trained to work abroad, while tens of thousands of Christian missionaries pour into African countries? Have 10 propagators gone there from the Islamic Republic? We must deal with our own faults. The deficiencies that we have in our work, in our behavior, in our attitude, in our demeanor, in our conduct, in our research, in our propagation, in our teaching, wherever there are deficiencies, we must eliminate them. If we seek to be respected in this world, we must do this. And if we want God's contentment and salvation in the next world, we must do this. Otherwise, we must face dishonor in this world and punishment in the next. We have serious problems. The life and death of the clerics is at issue. We must create for ourselves the competence to survive. This situation that we have is not survivable. Even if there is no enemy, we will be extinct on our own. Now so many enemies, internal and foreign, have attacked us, with different methods, with different motivations. We must pay more attention to the importance of the threat, and before it is too late, we must think of a solution.

C. Avoiding Moral and Spiritual Corruption

More important than everything else are moral and spiritual issues. If our behavior in our personal life, in family life, in social life is such that it shows we seek the same world over which others fight, that our goal is the same mortal world that others fight for, the people then will not trust us anymore. The clerical institution has two bases, one is knowledge and the other piety. If our knowledge is of no use to the society and does not respond to the needs of the society, if our piety not only did not become a model for others but becomes polluted by corruption, such an institution will not have the ability to survive. I do not deny the existence of those

who are champions of research and manifestations of piety. It is by the blessing of the people that people like me exist. There are revered people who are the crown of our heads, the source of our pride. But I am speaking about people like myself, who are weak in knowledge and weaker in piety.

Conclusion

Today, if we search the pages of the newspapers and magazines of the Islamic Republic, we will find the same issues, with changes in various garbs. In various forms, they are saying the same thing. Slowly, they are preparing the minds of the people to strike and eliminate the clerics. We are negligent. One day we will wake up when it is too late and find out what a profound conspiracy was at work, what complex plans have been drawn. We do not accuse anyone and are not particularly hostile to anyone, but you must be alert and know that actions are taking place by witting enemies and unwitting friends which are weakening and will ultimately destroy the Shi'ite clerics.

We must become conscious and feel responsible. We must think, more, and come out of this lethargy. We must give up this initiative and fanatical method. We must prepare the conditions for our life and survival. Otherwise, some day they will recite our death prayers.

Here we do not have the time to respond to the problems and offer practical solutions for the seminary and the clerics. The report card of the educational division of the divine institution, the Cultural Foundation of Baqer al-Olum, can be a limited example of a practical response. I only wanted to sound the siren, which naturally is not pleasant to the ears.

Oh God, for the sake of Fatemeh Zahra and her son, the Imam of the Age, cast your blessing over us and on all the Shi'ites. Make us more familiar with our duties. Make us succeed in our duties. Grant us sincerity. Perpetuate the shadow of the supreme leader of the revolution. Expedite the coming of the Imam of the Age. Put us among the supporters of His Holiness. Grant us a good end. Greetings to you and God's mercy and blessing.

Brain Drain Highest to Developed Countries

93AS0404A London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] SALAM newspaper, in its Thursday, 19 Azar [10 Dec], issue, quoting Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, the minister of culture and higher education, writes: "Iran is among the record holders in the brain drain to developed countries."

The issue of the brain drain is one of the major problems of developing countries, but the substantial immigration of the Iranian expert work force such as that that occurred after the Islamic revolution is very rare in world history. With the departure of this force from Iran, in fact, an incalculable wealth has been transferred to the developed countries. The brain drain, which is also

called "reverse technological transfer" (from south to north), is mainly due to such factors as lack of necessary security for experts and researchers, chaos, lack of research resources, and especially the atmosphere of strangulation.

SALAM, quoting the minister of culture and higher education, added that Iran, "in allocating 0.3 percent of its gross national product to research, is among the backward countries." Dr. Mo'in mentioned the number of Iranian researchers in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] to be 90 persons for every 1 million population and said: "At the same time, this ratio in developed countries is more than 2,800 people." He also spoke about the number of scientific books in Iran, which is 14 for every student, and said: "Dozens of scientific and academic centers in the world have 700 to 800 books per student. In 1370, Iran had 140 research centers, while at the same time Austria, with a population of about 7 million in 1990, had 850 research centers."

Official on Prosecution of Violation by Press

93AS0406Q Tehran SALAM in Persian 19 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] News Service—Following the announcement of a jury verdict on charges against the official in charge of the publication GARDUN, the verdict of the penal court (Branch 135) was also issued that the manager in charge of the publication GARDUN is innocent of the charges made.

The text of the innocence verdict from Branch 135 Penal Court Number 1 is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty

Date of trial 71/9/18 [9 Dec 1992], judgment 559, case 359/135/71, defendant Mr 'Abbas Ma'rufi.

In the jurisdiction of Branch 135 of Tehran Penal Court No. 1, presided over by Mr. Seyyed Hoseyn Nurbakhsh, the court's verdict on the unnumbered undated indictment from the respected Tehran Islamic revolutionary

prosecutor and the incompetence judgement 25922-71/6/17 from Branch 5 of the Tehran Islamic Revolutionary Court, Mr. 'Abbas Ma'rufi, son of Seyyed 'Ali Akbar, a 34-year-old resident of Tehran, editor and manager of the publication GARDUN, was charged with

- 1 - presenting ways and offering guidance for opposing the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- 2 - spreading rumors against the sacred government and its officials
- 3 - insulting the Islamic Republic and its government officials
- 4 [as published] - insulting the lofty station of the clergy
- 5 - insulting the religious obligation of the sacred defense
- 6 - insulting the hezbollah
- 7 - propagating and promoting the deviated culture of monarchy.

Apart from the fact that it states clearly in Article 12 of the Press Law enacted 22 Esfand 1364 [12 Mar 1986] that press violations must be referred to a competent court for prosecution either directly by the supervisory council or at the request of the minister of Islamic guidance, which has not been done in this case, in view of the fact that the members of the jury have unanimously decided in an opinion dated 9/17/71 [8 Decr 1992] and registered and entered into the case file that "although the material included in the issues of the magazine GARDUN cited in the indictment is not in accordance with the ideals of the Islamic revolution, they are not crimes punishable by law and do not conform to the laws cited in the indictment. Therefore, the jury finds the defendant not guilty." The court therefore exonerates the defendant of the charges on the basis of Article 34 of the Press Law enacted in Esfand 1364 and Articles 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 of the Press Law enacted 25 Mordad 1358 [16 Aug 1979]. The verdict issued can be revised in a branch court of equal rank.

Chief of Branch 135 Tehran Penal Court No. 1, Nurbakhsh

SALAM Report on Complete Text of 1993 Budget

93AS0425A Tehran SALAM in Persian
16 Dec 92 pp 8, 10

[Text] The complete text of the 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] national budget bill, which was presented by the president to the Majles, follows:

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

I offer congratulations on the auspicious birthday of her holiness, Sadiqeh Kobra, Fatemeh Zahra, greetings upon her, to his holiness, the Imam of the Age, the supreme leader, the martyr-nurturing people, and the honorable deputies. I take the coinciding of the day that the 1372 budget is presented to the Majles with this auspicious day as a good omen and wish for more blessings for the Iranian people in the coming year.

The 1372 budget is presented to the honorable Majles while the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the threshold of the 14th anniversary of its establishment. During this period, our country has passed through a very sensitive and destiny-making period and has experienced dangerous events and, by the will of God, has emerged from each successful and proud, with new readiness. It is a period that in the history of our country will always be scented with faith, self-sacrifice, generosity, and strife. It is necessary at every juncture to honor the memory and the names of the bright figures of this period, particularly the memory of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam; the revered martyrs of the revolution and the imposed war; the self-sacrificing combatants; and the beloved freed prisoners of war.

I thank God Almighty for, in the period that the present government has been in charge, it has gone through the essential stages on the road to reconstruction and the improvement of the general conditions of the country after the imposed war; the beginning of various systems; and the creation of cultural, economic, social and administrative activities. Undoubtedly, any sort of fair comparison between the present conditions of the country and those after the imposed war ended will confirm this point, even after a casual, nonexpert glance.

The present budget being offered is the fourth budget that has been presented by the present government to the legislative Majles. Every annual budget has had its own particular philosophy and goals and has been designed and written in order to implement some of the programs and goals of the government. Fortunately, the Third Majles, in examining and ratifying the government programs, particularly the first Five-Year Plan, gave its cooperation and support and in this way has a significant role in the present successes. Since every annual budget is a one-year program of the government and paints the economic horizon of the country for a period of one year, and considering the point that the 1372 is the first budget that will be examined by the honorable Fourth Majles, I find it necessary to inform the honorable

deputies concerning some points in regard to the trends and general economic conditions of the country and the landscape of the coming year. The economic conditions of the country and also the future landscape draw the framework in which the 1372 budget has been devised; consequently, it is necessary for these conditions to be taken into consideration in the examination and ratification of the budget.

From the beginning, the main policy and goal of the government has been attention to the issue of the overall development of the country. For me, a definite issue is that the Islamic Republic of Iran must not remain a backward country. Everything that is within the power of the government and national resources has been employed to ensure that the country will be on a constant and dynamic developmental course, with true motivations that stem from general creativity and effort. In the period of the three years of my government service, this goal has been pursued, and in the future, as well, the government will follow up this position with all its ability, within the framework of related considerations. This choice has required very difficult decisions and constant and laborious reforms and rectifications, to which a significant amount of the government's time has been devoted in the past years.

Perhaps for the present government the easiest position in regards to economic issues would have been to spend the oil export revenues on importing consumer goods and through coupons and similar devices to distribute them among the various strata of the people and provide a comfortable and superficially low-cost living for many of the people. On the other hand, with the distribution and rationing of imported raw materials, it could also inject an easy windfall income into the urban communities by creating a situation ripe for middlemen. Subsequently, the government would not be obliged to face the risk of decisions that have been unprecedented in our country in terms of kind and volume within the framework of government decision making. Even though choosing this policy would create future solutions, it would guarantee the gradual destruction of the economic foundation, the prevention of the growth and development of the potential of the country, and the constant descending of the country into the whirlpool of poverty and backwardness. But my opinion, and that of the government, with the goals that I have in mind does not conform to such a situation. The government is ready to do all it can and it will take the necessary decision to place the Islamic Republic of Iran on the course of growth and progress in a way that, by the will of God, we will have a free, prosperous country and a deserved place in today's world.

It is usually thus that every decision in economic and social issues is coupled with the danger that it will bring unpredicted results along with predicted results and unpleasant consequences along with expected ones. Fortunately, in the early years of the First Plan, the government has had significant success in this connection and many of the anxieties that were an issue in the beginning

of the government programs now appear groundless and unjustified. In the issues that will be presented in the next section, the economic trends of the country in the recent years will be examined in more detail, and the strong and weak points of the operations of this period will be reviewed for the honorable deputies.

National Production

The imposed war and the series of events that occurred prior to 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] caused national production to decrease seriously. For this reason, in recent years, the main goal of the government in devising new economic policies can be termed growth in national production. Deciding on this goal caused the gross domestic product, at a fixed rate that had decreased in the 1364-1367 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1989] period by 7.3 percent, to grow in the period of 1368-1370 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1992] by an annual average of 8.3 percent, extending beyond the projected growth. This can give a clearer picture in the area of data concerning the growth of products in various economic sectors.

In the past three years, in the agricultural sector, by devising the policy of guaranteed prices and transferring some of the consumer subsidies in this sector to the farmers, we have witnessed the average annual growth of 5.6 percent. This has resulted in a substantial decrease in the import of essential products, such as wheat and barley, such that, despite the population growth and even the growth of per capita consumption of bread in the country, wheat imports have decreased in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] to less than half its import for 1367. Also, barley imports have reached a very low level. In the industries sector as well, the successes are very important. In the past three years, the added value of the industries and mines sector has grown on the average by about 15 percent annually. During the same period of time, the added value of the heavy industries sector has had a growth of 45 percent, which can play a significant role in creating production capacities in the country. In this sector in 1370, we witnessed the production of 2.4 million tons of steel, 103,000 tons of copper, and 73,000 tons of aluminum. In the petrochemical industries as well, production growth has been quite significant, such that production in this sector in 1370 reached 3.65 million tons.

Investments

Not only has the trend of decreased investments that in the past several years had been created due to the significant damage to the investment capability of the country and the halt of many essential investments stopped, but in the first three years of the plan, because of the incentive policies of the government, the volume of investments has grown significantly, such that in 1367-1370 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1992] investments increased by an annual average of 12.6 percent.

Expenditures of Private Consumption and Government Aid

In the first three years of the plan, private consumption increased by an average of 9.5 percent. This increase is more than that projected in the plan. The trend of the increase in private consumption in recent years indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to preserve the stable trend of general consumption while preserving the strong tendency toward investments. The preservation of this consumer trend in recent years has been due to the existence of a significant volume of transferred aid by the government.

In the period 1368-1370, one of the issues to which the government paid attention was offering a significant volume of social security resources in the course of economic changes. For this reason, every year a significant volume of the general budget resources has been spent on the procurement of essential goods and fuel and the provision of health, treatment, and social insurance to the members of the society, such that in 1370, 21 percent of the general budget has been clearly spent on social security expenditures as transferred government aid. The per capita subsidy provided during the same period from the general budget has had a significant increase, such that the per capita subsidy increased from 18,000 rials in 1367 to 45,000 rials in 1370. At the same time, still a significant part of the transferred aid of the government is in the form of providing the costs for water, electricity, bread, fuel and the like in a hidden form, which is not visibly reflected in the general budget accounts. For example, this year transferred government aid has been paid at the rate of 201,000 rials for the per capita consumption of bread and 167,000 rials for the per capita consumption of fuel.

Government Financial and Budget Situation

As an essential government goal, which has been pursued in recent years and will also continue in the future years, is the reform in the structure of the financial situation of the government. This reform is worthy of note from two essential dimensions. First, it is to reform the revenue structure of the government. In this area, the attention of the government is focussed on increasing domestic revenues and decreasing the reliance of the general budget on oil export revenues. Based on this direction, the tax revenues, which had suffered severe stagnation in the years prior to 1367, increased, but the second reason is reform in the government expenditure structure. One of the main problems of the government during the years prior to 1368 was the excessive increase in the budget deficit. But the period of 1368-1370 can be considered a pivotal point in regards to the writing of the budget after the revolution. In this period, with the efforts that have been made by the government, in conformity with the goals of the First Plan law, it materialized at a level close to and harmonious with the figures in the annual budget law. Also, with the significant increase in revenues, the government budget deficit decreased significantly, so that the ratio of the budget deficit to the total budget in

1370 was reduced to 14.6 percent, and it is anticipated that this ratio in 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] will be reduced to less than 9 percent and reach zero in the 1372 budget. As you see, in the course of the years of the plan, the government has succeeded in always presenting the government budget to the honorable Majles with the projected borrowing in the plan.

Among the other successes attained in recent years is the reform of the share of developmental expenditures in the general budget. This ratio, which was continually decreasing in the years prior to 1367, changed in the years 1368-1370 such that the share of developmental funds in the total general budget expenditures was increased and the share of the current funds decreased so that the ratio of developmental funds in the total expenditures increased from 19.4 percent in 1367 to 31.2 percent in 1372.

At the present, more than 1,000 national developmental plans are under way in the country. These plans mainly concern higher education and research, water resources, roads and transports, petroleum, technical and vocational training, mines, agriculture and natural resources, and electrical industries. In terms of numbers, 78 percent of the total plans in this sector are national plans, and in terms of funds they cover about 70 percent of the total developmental funds of these projects.

The Banking System and Monetary and Credit Policies

The monetary and credit policies of the country also in the recent years have been fundamentally changed. These changes resulted in the increased productivity of banks and broader use of the appropriate monetary tools.

The interest on the investment deposits to create incentives to increase deposits, particularly long-term deposits, and mobilizing the necessary resources for investment increased, such that this year the increase in the deposits of the nongovernmental sector in the banks was 27.6 percent, and during the same period long-term deposits had an increase of 31.5 percent.

In the recent years, with the revocation of the policy of determining the credit ceiling, the revocation of obliging the commercial banks to purchase new loan papers, and determining a specific composition for banks in granting credit facilities among various sectors, the banks have more freedom of action to now grant credit facilities and determine interest for depositors. This resulted in the banking facilities granted to the nongovernmental sector in 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991] and 1370 increasing over 35 percent on the average. Essential attention in recent years has changed in granting credit facilities gradually in the interest of the production sectors, such that at the end of Shahrivar 1371 [22 Sep 1992] about 79 percent of banking facilities were granted to production sectors.

Among the important changes that have taken place in recent years in the monetary system of the country is the

change in the composition of cash flow. In 1370 the composition of cash flow changed in such a way that the ratio of paper money and coins in circulation decreased from 17.9 percent at the end of 1369 to 16 percent at the end of 1370. This figure decreased to 16 percent at the end of 1370. In Shahrivar 1371 [23 Aug-22 Sep 1992], this figure decreased to 13.5 percent. This shows the general attention to the new financial tools and the increase in general confidence in the banking system of the country.

Exports and Imports

The direction toward creating a single foreign currency rate has created a significant effect on the movement of the economic wheels in the country. The government decisively believes that with the creation of a single foreign currency rate, an important step that will be taken with the cooperation of the honorable Majles in 1372, we can eliminate many of the economic differences that have been created in the national economy and create the grounds for more work, effort, and production in the country.

In the past three years in which the government has taken effective action in this direction, fortunately significant success has been achieved in connection with the change in the composition of national exports and imports. In the same years, the share of exports of nonoil products in the foreign currency revenues of the country, which in the years prior to the revolution was constantly under 5 percent and in the years prior to 1367 also had strongly dropped, such that in 1369, according to official reports, this share increased to 8 percent and in 1370 to 16 percent. Another important point in connection with nonoil exports is the change in the composition of these exports, such that in recent years industrial goods produced in the country have been able to enter the world markets. For example, the opening of export credit to export the industrial products of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, which in 1364-1367 was a total of \$4 million, reached \$120 million in 1370, and in the first eight months of the year this figure amounted to \$111 million. This change in the national industries has been such that in regards to some of the industries that we imported products from prior to 1368, we were able to engage in exports. For example, in the petrochemical industries, we succeeded in exporting 1.8 million tons of goods valued at \$194 million. Hopefully in future years we will be able to achieve even greater success in changing the strategy of imports to one of export development.

In the area of imports, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has concentrated its efforts on achieving the determined strategy of the First Plan. For this reason, during the first years of the plan, due to the severe need of the economic sectors of the country for the reconstruction of lost capabilities, the volume of imports increased. This caused the volume of the national obligations to increase in the past years. But, on the basis of government planning, with the fruition of many accomplished actions this year, and in the future

years, a significant volume of the national obligations will decrease. We hope that with the cooperation of the honorable Majles we will act in such a way that we are able in the future years to take effective steps in the direction of the revision of foreign currency uses.

Now, after having presented the above-mentioned picture of the trends and changes in the national economy in recent years, I shall present to the honorable deputies the framework and the general considerations of the 1372 national budget and the characteristics of the budget of the various sectors.

Examination of the General Framework of the 1372 National Budget

The 1372 national budget, which is the last budget of the First Developmental Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been prepared with consideration for the need to continue economic growth and has three characteristics. First, according to the determined goal in the First [Developmental] Plan, the figure for borrowing from the banking system to provide for the budget deficit has reached zero for the first time in 25 years. This can undoubtedly be considered a pivotal point in the financial operations of the country.

Second, following the decision of the government to create a single foreign currency rate, the system of foreign currency rationing common in the past seven years has been stopped, and the figures in the next year's budget bill have been estimated on the basis of supply and demand. Of course, with the coordination of the honorable Majles, the foreign currency resources needed for defense, essential goods, pharmaceuticals, and petroleum products shall be allocated at this year's rate.

The third characteristic of the 1372 budget is the effort that has been made to make the budget as transparent as possible, and some of the government expenditure figures, which in the past were procured by the use of various methods from outside the budget, have been reflected in the general budget. In this area, for example, we can point out the difference in the price of essential goods with regard to the current budget and the investment expenditures of the National Oil Company and the National Natural Gas Company with regard to the developmental budget.

The 1372 national budget, with a figure of 54,179.7 billion rials, compared to the ratified budget of 1371 has an increase of 87.4 percent.

Of the funds of the national budget, 25,425.8 billion rials are allocated to the general budget of the government, which compared to this year increased by about 104 percent. The figure of the general budget includes 1,712.8 billion rials in expenditures from special revenue funds.

The budget of the government companies, for-profit institutions affiliated with the government, and banks, with an increase of 93 percent compared to 1371, has

been estimated to be 34,731.9 billion rials. Of this amount, 30,360 billion rials concerns government companies, 933.5 billion rials concerns for-profit institutions affiliated with the government, and 3,438.4 billion rials concerns banks.

1. General Government Budget

A. Revenues

The revenues in the 1372 budget bill have been estimated at 2,358.5 billion rials, which compared to the figure ratified in 1371 has increased by 120.6 percent. Of the above-mentioned figure, 23 percent are tax revenues, 67.7 percent are oil revenues, and 9.8 percent other revenues. As is evident, with the creation of a single rate for foreign currency, the actual revenue share in the total government revenues has become clear, and the suitable grounds for future planning in this regard have been provided. The last point is particularly important, since 1372 is the base year for the policies of the Second Developmental Plan.

The tax revenues in 1372, considering the projected preparations within the framework of the First Developmental Plan, have been estimated at 5,419.7 billion rials, which compared to the ratified figure this year shows an increase of 50 percent. Hence, the ratio of tax revenues to the gross domestic product, which has been increasing since 1368, will reach 8.2 percent in 1372, which is approximately the goal of the First Developmental Plan. The increase in tax revenues in 1372 is mainly due to the increase in income taxes and taxes on imports. The above-mentioned increases will also be achieved as a result of the improvement of the national economy and the expansion of production and trade activities.

In estimating the oil revenues, while emphasis is placed on proper use of the production capacities and oil exports, the changes in the world market have also been taken into consideration. Concerning other government revenues, which are mostly the result of government production and service activities, a growth of 20.4 percent has been projected. Given the mechanisms and motivations in the framework of the First Developmental Plan, the notes to next year's budget, and the attached bill of the law on the collection of certain government revenues and their uses in certain projected areas, it is expected that the above-mentioned figure will be achieved.

B. Expenditures

Current Expenditures

Current expenditures in the 1372 budget bill are estimated at 13,933.4 billion rials, which shows an increase of 85.3 percent compared to a similar figure in 1371. Without taking into consideration the increase due to the change in the foreign currency rate and other included new items, the increase in current expenditures for next year compared to 1371 is about 21 percent. One of the essential considerations in writing the current budget for

next year is the projection of sufficient funds to compensate for the decrease in the purchasing power of government organizations due to the creation of a single foreign currency rate and the prevention of an increase in the price of essential goods. In the same connection, while including sufficient funds to implement the law on the coordinated payment system of government employees and debts to them from 1370, the amount of 1.835 billion rials has been anticipated to pay the difference between the price of essential goods (including wheat, rice, oil, sugar cubes and sugar, meat, and cheese) and 1.423.4 billion rials to pay for the difference in the rate of foreign currency for the press, the hajj pilgrims' share, the printing of textbooks, the import of medical equipment, grants to students, the airline companies, and the consumption of other executive organizations. Also, within the framework of the 1372 budget, the losses of regional water companies have been fully secured, and the necessary funds for the repayment of part of the government debt to the Social Security Organization and past savings debts to workers have been included.

One of the important characteristics of the proposed budget is the special attention paid to cultural issues and providing for the spiritual needs of the society, particularly the young generation. Under present conditions, considering the expansive volume of activities and planning carried out by the enemies of Islam to attack our Islamic and revolutionary values, and considering the advancements in technology and technical resources in order to protect the Islamic and cultural goals of the country and the main investments of the revolution, there is no other way but an effective and proper cultural presence. For this reason, it is necessary to make an extensive effort to create various cultural and artistic programs and mass produce and publish books and films. For this purpose, in the next year's budget, attention has been paid to support for artists and writers, aid to the producers of sound and beneficial cultural products, and preparing the grounds for encouraging the people and the nongovernment sector to engage in cultural activities.

Another important point to which the government has paid attention in the 1372 national budget is extending coverage and greater protection for the vulnerable strata of the society. In this regard, the government is preparing a comprehensive plan which, after studies have been made, will be presented to the honorable Majles in the form of a bill. In the 1372 budget bill, in order to protect the vulnerable strata, the funds of the related organizations have increased from 704.4 billion rials this year to 1,342.2 billion rials, an increase of 90 percent, the major part of which is allocated to increased salaries. With the above-mentioned funds, next year about 1,581,000 families, including 6.3 million people in the society, will be extended coverage, and every family will be paid 80 percent of the minimum salaries and wages of the employees. Hence, in 1372, the number of people under coverage has increased by 24 percent, and the level of payment of wages to people under coverage will about double that of 1371.

In the continuation of the basic directions of the current expenditures in recent years the social sectors, including general, technical, and vocational training, higher education, culture and art, health and treatment, and social security and welfare, will have a major share in the increase in current expenditures next year. The current expenditures of the above-mentioned sectors in 1372 have been projected at a total of 6,342 billion rials, the net amount of which (with the exclusion of the effects of the change in the foreign currency rate and modifications due to the implementation of the law of the coordinated payment system) comprises about 46 percent of the total current expenditures and compared to 1371 shows an increase of 47 percent. This increase is more than double the total average growth in current expenditures for next year. Also, special attention has been paid to the existing problems in the judicial sectors and the preservation of order and security in the country, and the related expenditures have increased by 67 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

The ratio of current expenditures to the total government expenditures in 1372 will be about 59 percent, which compared to similar figures in 1369 and 1371 show significant improvement in the composition of current and developmental expenditures.

Developmental Expenditures

Developmental funds in 1372 have been estimated at 9,809.6 billion rials, which compared to the 1371 ratified budget shows an increase of 148 percent. Hence, the ratio of the developmental expenditures to the total funds of the government developmental budget will reach 41 percent, which is the highest in the last 27 years. From the above-mentioned funds, next year numerous projects will be completed, including 19 important projects involving a total in estimated funds of 1,080 billion rials, and become operational, while major parts of another eight important projects will also be completed. The important projects, which will become operational next year, are the Arak Petrochemical Industries, the seventh refinery of Arak, Saveh Dam and Pishin Dam, the cement factories of Abadeh and Qa'en, the wheat storage silos of Hamadan and Gonbad, the production complex for raw materials for detergents, and the Kerman Tire Factory.

In the distribution of government developmental funds in 1372, the basic tendency is to provide the needed investment sources to create the physical educational capacities, to develop water and soil resources, and also to provide for fundamental needs, particularly communication needs, while the major part of the investment funds needed by the petroleum, natural gas, and electricity companies will be provided within the framework of the developmental budget for next year. Considering these priorities, the developmental funds, without taking into consideration the funds resulting from foreign currency compensation, compared to the ratified 1371

figures, have increased by 45 percent, with the educational sectors, including precollegiate education, technical and vocational training, higher education, water resources, electricity, oil, natural gas, and roads and transport being given priority. The share of developmental funds of the above-mentioned sections in the total developmental funds in 1371 is 37 percent, which will reach 54 percent in 1372.

The provincial developmental budget for 1372 is more favorable quantitatively and qualitatively compared to previous years, such that it has gained a more suitable structure, and, while covering more of the regional needs in the form of various notes, the main tendency is toward creating more of a balance in various areas and benefiting the deprived and less-developed regions of the country.

The provincial development plan next year has been estimated at 1,296 billion rials, which compared to a similar figure in 1371 has increased by about 78 percent. The main tendency in the distribution of the above-mentioned funds is to address educational, health and treatment, and fundamental needs, through such projects as the creation of roads and providing rural electricity and drinking water. Also, production affairs, such as agriculture and water resources, in addition to the above-mentioned funds, within the various lines and notes of the budget bill, as well as special funds for the implementation of developmental plans in provinces, have been taken into consideration, which, on the whole, have increased the volume of provincial funds significantly.

Another important characteristic of the developmental budget next year is the continuation of special attention paid to deprived and less-developed regions, which is one of the major aspects of the policies of the First Developmental Plan. To achieve the goals stated in Note 5 of the law of the First Developmental Plan, in the distribution of provincial developmental funds in 1372, this tendency has been preserved, and the deprived areas of the country will benefit from favorable funds. In the 1372 budget bill, the amount of 159 billion rials in special funds have been included to eliminate deprivation and compensate for the existing gap between such regions and the prosperous areas of the country, in Part 6 of the bill, under the heading of special funds for deprived areas. This fund compared to the previous year has increased by over 54 percent and has been extended from six developmental sections in 1371 to 13 developmental sections in 1372, which mainly include fundamental job-generating projects in the rural areas. Another characteristic of the 1372 budget is the inclusion of funds to complete incomplete projects to reconstruct earthquake-stricken regions in the provinces of Gilan and Zanzan and to complete the projects that had started from this source. For this purpose, a total of 50 billion rials have been allocated,

of which 41 billion rials are for provincial projects and 8 billion rials for national projects.

Among the other major features of the 1372 budget bill is the special attention given to the reconstruction of the war-stricken regions and providing the necessary conditions for the return of the war refugees to their homes. Hence, in order to expedite the implementation of the reconstruction projects, for the first time the reconstruction funds in the bill have been decentralized and included in the provincial budgets, within a framework and plan distributed to the war-stricken provinces. Investments for reconstruction involve a total of 600 billion rials, of which 320 billion rials are for the implementation of provincial and national projects and 280 billion rials for the payment of compensation for damages resulting from the war. This fund has increased more than 71 percent compared to the funds in the previous year. With the implementation of this budget, it is anticipated that about half a million other war refugees will return to their homes.

2. Budget of Government Companies, For-Profit Establishments Affiliated With the Government, and Banks

In connection with government companies, last year numerous steps were taken to improve their operations and their output. This year the policy of transferring government companies to the nongovernmental sector continued with efforts to attract the participation of the people. Parallel to these steps, other government companies in the created atmosphere have been able to carry out activities to promote quality and production methods in order to meet the necessary requirements to participate in the world markets.

The resources and uses of government companies, banks, and for-profit establishments affiliated with the government in 1372 have been estimated at 34,731.9 billion rials. This figure is 57.7 percent of the total national budget and has increased by 93 percent compared to a similar figure in the budget of this year.

In 1372, government companies within the framework of the goals of the section stated in the First [Developmental] Plan will invest 11,039 billion rials of their internal resources, the facilities of the banking system, and other sources. This figure shows an increase of 150 percent compared to 1371.

Taxes paid and share profits of the government companies in 1372 have been estimated at 616.9 billion rials and 129.9 billion rials, respectively, which have increased by 76 percent and 399 percent, respectively, compared to similar figures in 1371.

Examination of the Budget of Sectors in 1372

In this section, I shall speak about some points of the government implemental programs in 1372 and point out the characteristics and implemental consequences of the budget bill in various sectors.

1. Precollegiate Education and Technical and Vocational Training

It is projected that in 1372, about 17.4 million precollegiate students will be studying at various levels. Of this number, about 10.6 million will be in elementary school, 4.2 million in middle school, 2.1 million in general high school, and about 0.5 million in other general educational programs. Based on these figures, the attainment of the projected quantitative goals for middle school and the teacher training and literacy activities shall be greater than the goals of the programs and in regards to elementary education about equivalent to the goals of the program. Also, it is projected that nonprofit schools will absorb about 200,000 students in various educational levels.

At the present time, 5,700,000 square meters of educational space is being constructed, and it is projected that in 1372 with the competition of about 30,000 classrooms, new capacity for nearly one million students will be provided for single-shift use of classrooms.

Next year, in order to implement the new high-school system, appropriate resources have been provided which will facilitate the implementation of this system on a trial basis.

In the area of technical and vocational training, in 1372, the necessary resources to equip the existing centers to help implement the new high-school system in the area of work and knowledge have been provided, and significant funds have been placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to expand technical and vocational training.

In this year's current budget, necessary funds to expedite the implemental operations of the technical and vocational training centers and establishments under way have been anticipated.

2. Higher Education

The number of students in universities and higher education institutions in 1372 will reach 780,000, which compared to this year shows an increase of 16 percent. Of the above-mentioned number, 310,000 will be in full-time attendance at government institutions, 120,000 in part-time attendance at government institutions, and 350,000 in attendance at nongovernment institutions.

Projected current and developmental funds for the higher education sector in 1372 is a total of 882.3 billion rials, which compared to a similar figure in 1371 has increased by 93.4 percent. This is while funds for this sector in 1371 compared to 1367 had quadrupled, and in 1372 the funds for this sector will have a significant increase. This shows the special attention of the government to the development of higher education.

At the present time, 5 million square meters of educational and student space are under construction, including 5,700 teaching hospital beds, in order to increase the educational capacity by 20,000 people. Also,

25 building projects with 250,000 square meters under construction are under way to expand research.

The education and educational aid capacities which will become operational from the developmental funds in this sector next year are:

Educational,	8,700 persons
Dormitories,	7,323 persons
Cafeterias,	5,200 persons
Libraries,	600 persons

3. Culture, Mass Communication, Tourism, and Physical Education

To implement the wise statements of the supreme leader, in order to fight the foreign cultural invasion, next year special attention has been paid to carrying out cultural and artistic activities. In this connection, funds for the culture and arts section have increased significantly compared to this year. Next year, 16 public libraries, three cultural and art centers for children and youth, and 30 mobile rural culture and arts centers will become operational. Also, 290 book titles, with 8.7 million copies, will be published for children and youth, and special funds have been projected to make proper use of video films.

In the area of preserving and revitalizing the cultural heritage, next year 250 historical monuments and buildings will be repaired, and 14 museums will become operational in the country.

In 1372, the implemental operations to install 13 radio stations, 17 television stations, and seven centers for production and transmission will be completed in the country, which will increase the coverage of Networks 1 and 2 of the Vision [television] and Network 1 of the Voice [radio] to more than 95 percent of the national population. By the end of 1372, 13 new agencies in the country and two new agencies abroad will be added to the existing agencies. Hence, the number of agencies owned by IRNA in the country and abroad will increase to 26 [television agencies] and nine [radio agencies].

In the sector on national and international tourism, investments by the nongovernment sector have been encouraged and necessary support anticipated. In this sector, the number of residential units of the private and government sectors have increased by 500 units; hence, the possibility for creating about \$200 million in foreign currency revenues through attracting foreign tourists has been provided.

Next year, in the physical education and sports section, about 12 national projects and 50 provincial projects will become operational, in which case the existing athletic capacity in the country will increase by about 19,000 people per day.

4. Health and Treatment

In 1372, about 6,500 physicians and paramedics will be sent to needy and deprived regions to provide a medical and paramedical work force.

The physical capacity of production and the offering of health and treatment services that will be created and equipped and become operational next year are:

Health centers, 800 units

Rural and urban health and treatment centers, 360 units

Provision and installation of water pipes, 1,000 villages

Bases and centers for blood transfusion, 7 units

Birthing centers, 50 units

In 1372, the capacity of hospitals under government coverage to hospitalize patients will increase by 3,000 beds. Also, next year the blood processing unit in Tehran, with an ultimate production capacity of 80,000 liters of plasma, will become operational. The operation of this processing unit will not only free the country of reliance on blood products, but will also have a decisive effect on raising the health and treatment level of needy patients, including those who suffer from thalassemia.

Next year, the population control operations will continue, anticipating the coverage of 60 percent of women.

5. Welfare

To support the vulnerable strata, an increase in the number of people covered by the emergency and support organizations is one of the policies emphasized by the government in 1372. In this section, in addition to the increase in the salaries of wage earners and the increase in the number of families under coverage by the emergency and support organizations, to which reference was made in the general section, the average per capita health insurance will increase from 900 rials this year to 1,500 rials next year.

Twenty-five recuperation centers and 30 support centers will become operational in 1372.

6. The Judicial Branch

Considering the important and essential role of the judicial branch in creating social and economic security in the country, the strengthening of this section is especially noted by the government. For this reason, in 1372, funds for this branch will increase by 40 percent compared to 1371.

Next year, the judicial branch will be able to take steps to supplement the salaries of judges by 50 percent with extra pay. This will play a significant role in increasing their productivity.

In 1372, for the first time, in order to complete unfinished buildings, in addition to the special revenues of this branch, a special fund from the general budget has been anticipated. Also, necessary projections have been made to equip the judicial units.

7. The National Administrative System

One of the serious problems of the government can be considered the existence of numerous and complicated laws, regulations, and instructions, which are the most significant factors in slowing down the administrative affairs and contributing to the discontent of the people. For this reason, in recent years, the government has determined to carry out essential reforms in this area. In this connection, so far the new methods of issuance of passports, drivers licenses, building permits, changes in birth certificates, and customs regulations to release goods have been prepared by the Supreme Administrative Council and implemented. Next year, as well, these steps will be followed up more seriously.

In connection with organizational reform and limiting government organizations, eliminating the duplication of the duties of government organizations, creating the grounds for increasing the participation of the people in the administration of the affairs of the country, and transferring more authority to provincial and local officials are being studied. My hope is that, with the fruition of the completed activities, next year we will witness the implementation of the above-mentioned projects and the elimination of problems.

8. Defense Affairs

In the next year's defense budget, the necessary projections have been made to fully implement the law of the coordinated payment system regarding the armed forces and increase the allocation for food and clothing by 77 percent for the service duty personnel and 30 percent for the cadre. Also, the necessary projections have been made to increase the salaries of soldiers.

In order to complete the developmental plans of the defense sector, in 1372, the funds in this sector have been increased by 47 percent.

9. Foreign Affairs

The development of foreign relations, particularly with the newly independent Central Asian and Caucasian countries, has been noted by the government. For this purpose, this year, diplomatic relations with these countries have been established at the embassy or consulate levels, and in 1372, the necessary funds to provide the cadre and equipment of the newly established agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in these republics have been projected.

Next year, in order to develop the foreign relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the establishment of four new agencies at the embassy level, including one in Bosnia-Herzegovina, have been projected. Also, seven building projects of the agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including offices and residences, will be completed in 1372.

10. Agriculture

In 1372, in the area of forests and pastures, the lumber production capacity from northern forests will be increased by about 1.1 million cubic meters, and about 100,000 hectares [ha] will be added to the forests.

In the livestock and birds program, the capacity of red meat production will be increased by about 50,000 tons. Also, about 70,000 tons will be added to white meat production, 90,000 tons to the capacity of egg production, 250,000 tons to the capacity of milk production, and 800 tons to the capacity of honey production.

In 1372, it is expected that hunting and harvesting of marine life will increase by 25 percent compared to this year. Also, it is projected that marine life reserves will go beyond the level projected in the plan.

In the area of cultivation, it is projected that the production of various agricultural products will increase. For example, we can point to the increase of one million tons of irrigated and dry-farming wheat production.

In the water and soil program, the operations under way have increased the average output of transfers and irrigation by 1.5 percent. The most important projects under way in this area are:

- Coverage of traditional trees on 155,000 ha of land
- Equipment and revitalization of 60,000 ha of traditional lands
- Equipment and revitalization of lands under storage dams on 55,000 ha
- Leveling 250,000 ha of land
- The creation of pressurized irrigation systems on 57,000 ha

11. Water Resources

The provision of water through reservoir dams, at a capacity of 530 million cubic meters, and the implementation of small projects to provide water and increase the operation of existing capacities has been estimated at 1,595 million cubic meters.

In 1372, it is anticipated that with the completion of the construction of the Saveh Reservoir Dam in Central Province, Barun Dam in West Azarbaijan Province, Band-e Chenakhor Dam in Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari Province, and Numel Dam in Mazandaran, the capacity of water in the country regulated by reservoir dams will increase by about 450 cubic meters. Also, the construction operations on 19 large dams and dozens of small dams will continue throughout the country.

The construction operations of Pishin Dam in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan, with a reservoir capacity of 250 million cubic meters, has been completed, and this dam will be filled by the end of this year.

The construction operations of the main irrigation and drainage network on 125,000 ha of land and the secondary networks on 177,000 ha of land will continue in 1372.

The construction operations concerning water outreach to cities and industries at 760 million cubic meters will also be pursued within the framework of the developmental projects.

12. Industries and Mines

In 1372, the Mobarakeh steel project that was put into operation this year will, with the industrial output, offer its products to the society, and it is projected that the national steel production next year will go beyond 4 million tons.

The aromatic project of Esfahan, with a nominal capacity of 161,000 tons, has reached production on a trial basis this year, and by the end of this year will produce about 40 percent of its nominal capacity. Its production in 1372 will reach 60 percent of its nominal capacity.

The first phase of the Arak petrochemical industries, with a capacity of 300,000 tons of plastic products, will be operational this year. This complex will offer its products to the market next year.

The Ahvaz industrial carbon developmental project, with a capacity of 20,000 tons, will become operational on a trial basis in 1372.

The project for the production of raw materials for artificial fibers (D.M.T.) will become operational this year.

In 1372, with the completion of most exploratory projects of the existing mines, new resources will be ready for operation, including the numerous reserves of coal, phosphates, aluminum raw materials, gold, and some other metal and nonmetal substances.

Also, next year, with the completion of some of the mine equipment and operational projects, new capacities will be created. For example, more than 200,000 tons will be added to the coal production capacity, and 100,000 tons of phosphate concentrate will be produced.

It is noteworthy that the government is determined to continue to promote the growth of industries in the future years. In this connection, attention is paid to special protection policies as well. Especially in the phases of economic modification, the government policy to regulate the conditions of the activities of the industries sector is such that in addition to improving the structure of the industries, which is a necessary and inevitable issue, the survival of the national industries will be guaranteed. For this purpose, the following essential policies are noted: On the one hand, through special notes that are projected in the budget bill, support aid and subsidies will be offered to some industries. On the other hand, through a revision of the customs tariffs,

which is under way at the present time, national support for domestic products will be given.

13. Trade and Cooperatives

Attention to the procurement of essential goods needed in the country has caused the essential goods to always take a significant share in the imports of the country. In 1372, as well, the necessary resources have been taken into consideration for the import of essential goods, and on this basis it is projected that the share of imports of these goods will reach 11 percent.

Next year, with the completion of the construction operations of two wheat storage silos with the capacity of 58 million tons and 251 multi-purpose warehouses with a capacity of 266,000 tons, the storage facilities of the country will increase.

This year, with the practical start of work in the Ministry of Cooperatives, significant growth has occurred in this sector, such that the banking credit for cooperative affairs, which in 1368-1370 was about 50 billion rials a year, in 1371 increased to 210 billion rials. In this connection, the necessary projections are made for the needed funds of the cooperative sector in Notes 3 and 4 of next year's budget.

14. Electricity

In 1372 a total of 1,752 megawatts [MW] of new capacity of the power plants in the country, including 815 MW of steam capacity, 928 MW of natural gas capacity, and 9 MW of diesel and hydroelectricity, will be created.

Electrical transmitting lines for which the operations will be completed next year are:

400-kilovolt [kV] transmission lines, 420 circuit km long
230-kV transmission lines, 1,500 circuit km long
132-kV transmission lines, 377 circuit km long
63-66-kV transmission lines, 1,452 circuit km long

Also, in 1372, 1,200 villages will be given electricity throughout the country, and service will be given to 565,000 new electricity customers.

15. Oil and Natural Gas

Next year, the Arak Oil Refinery will become operational, and thus 150,000 barrels per day will be added to the refinery capacity for crude oil, and the construction operations of the second Tang-e Fanni-Arak crude oil pipeline, with a capacity of 150,000 barrels per day, will be completed. Also, the operation of the second phase of Sarkhun Refinery in Bandar 'Abbas, with a capacity of 7 million cubic meters per day, will start.

The operations for the injection of natural gas of Phase 1 of Koranj will be completed in 1372, and as a result the average protected crude oil production will increase from 94,000 to 224,000 barrels per day.

In 1372, operations in the refining unit of the Kangan Vali-ye 'Asr Refinery will be completed, with a capacity

of 22 million cubic meters of natural gas per day. Also, the operations of the second phase of the Sarkhun Refinery in Bandar 'Abbas, with a 7-million cubic meter capacity per day, will begin. Considering the refining capacity in the country, about 80 million cubic meters of natural gas will be refined by the existing refinery units in the country.

In regards to the transfer of natural gas in the country, the Sarkhun-Sarcheshmeh-Rafsanjan-Kerman transmission line, which is 440 km long, will be completed in Phase 5. Also, the natural gas transmission line of the northwest of the country, including Ardabil-Sarab-Tabriz-Tasuj-Urmia, with a total of 445 km, has been completed, and the natural gas pipelines of Neka'-Ramsar-Rasht, which is 400 km long, will be completed. In this connection, Phase 3 of the second national pipeline, which is 56 inches in diameter and 365 km long, will be completed.

The implemental operations of the transmitting pipelines, despite the problems in the acquisition of land, continues in various areas of the country, and at the present time, 2,340 km of pipelines are under way, of which 850 km will be operational by the end of 1372. Hence, by the end of 1372 about 8,800 km of pipelines will be in the operational system of the country.

In regard to the creation of networks in the cities, at the present time natural gas outreach is under way in 24 new cities. This year, about 400 km of network is scheduled for completion. Considering the fitting progress of natural gas outreach in the country, at the end of the year, about 29,500 km of urban natural gas network and 1.6 million natural gas consumer connections should be complete. In this connection, about 2.7 million families will benefit from natural gas outreach. Also, 8,500 commercial units, 930 small and large industrial units, and about 19 power plants will be given natural gas service.

16. Housing and Urban Development

In the housing sector, the government, devising policies and taking the following steps, will help this sector to prosper by increasing the number of residential units.

The creation of 18 new cities in various provinces will create the grounds for the mass production of housing and eliminate some of the shortages. In 1372, the preparation of 3,500 ha of land in these cities will be completed.

Incentives will be given to encourage the appropriate distribution of funding facilities from the banking system and resources for housing production throughout the country through the reduction of the land under construction for residential units up to 100 square meters. In this connection, we intend to pay from government sources parts of the basic costs, including water and electricity connection costs, and expenditures for the acquisition of building permits from the City Halls, for builders who reduce the amount of land under

construction for a residential unit to less than 75 square meters in large cities and less than 100 square meters in other cities.

In order to help the above-mentioned, in 1372 the possibility of the use of the funding facilities by urban water and sewage companies as well as bussing companies has been projected.

In 1372, based on the projected funds, it is estimated that through the urban land office, 47 million square meters of land will be placed at the disposal of people to build 130,000 residential units.

Through the Housing Organization, 24,000 residential units on 2.5 million square meters of land is under construction. By the end of 1372, about 5,000 residential units will be completed and sold.

17. Roads and Transport

In the area of road building and road maintenance, in 1372 a total of 8,629 km of national freeways, main roads, and secondary roads will be under construction, of which about 920 km will be completed and ready for use. Also, of the 6,000 km of roads that are being improved, about 714 km will be completed.

In the area of road maintenance, in 1372, 13,000 km of the existing roads in the country are being resurfaced with warm and cold asphalt. It is projected that by the end of next year the operations of nearly 1,700 km will be completed.

Under the program of rural roads, next year about 4,900 km of rural roads will be under construction. It is estimated that by the end of 1372, the construction operations of 1,000 km of these roads will be completed.

In the area of the development and improvement of the railroad network, in 1372, the construction operations on about 1,200 km of single-track railroads and about 900 km of double-track railroads will continue. Among the projects under way in regards to the building of lines are the Bafeq-Bandar 'Abbas line, which is 616 km of double tracks and 77 km of single tracks, of which 260 km of single tracks between Bafeq and Sirjan have become operational, and it is anticipated that next year it will be operational up to Tazorj Station, about 192 km from Bandar 'Abbas, temporarily. Also, the use of heavy trains from Imam Khomeyni Port to Tehran are among the operations under way. With the use of this system, the capacity of the southern axis, which is 3.5 million tons at the present, will increase to about 7 million tons.

In 1372, the operational capacity of the national ports will increase from about 25 million tons in 1371 to about 28 million tons. In the same connection, the level of transportation of goods in containers will increase from 850,000 tons in 1371 to about a million tons in 1372.

The capacity for the landing and takeoff of airplanes in the operational airports of the country will increase next year from about 400,000 airplanes to about 450,000

airplanes and the capacity for handling passengers from about 13.4 million people to about 14 million people. Also, passenger transportation on foreign flights will increase from 1.2 million people in 1371 to 1.6 million people, and on domestic flights from 6 million people to 7 million people.

18. Post and Communications

The most important activities of the steps in this sector in 1372 are:

- The transfer of 600,000 new telephones to applicants throughout the country;
- The establishment of communications between 1,000 new villages throughout the country;
- The use of the sea cable of Jask Port in order to establish communications between Iran and the United Arab Emirates and the Persian Gulf countries and providing for the transit needs of the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union with the Persian Gulf countries by using the Iranian communications routes;
- The increase of 7,000 urban public telephone units and 1,210 intercity public telephone units throughout the country;
- The creation of solar batteries in the Niri Fiber Production Factory with a capacity of 2 MW to provide electricity for some communication centers;
- The reduction of time for the distribution of postal deliveries between provinces from 37 hours to 30 hours;
- The increase in 1,000 financial post units throughout the city.

The points that were discussed are some of the activities under way by the government for 1372. I hope these activities will continue to expand in various directions for the rapid reconstruction of the country so that, by the grace of God, next year we shall witness more successes than ever before. In connection with the stages of the writing of the Second [Developmental] Plan, which is under way at the present, the planning system for the Second Phase has been approved by the Economic Council, and the divisional planning councils and planning committees of the provinces have been formed. These councils at the present are examining the past operations and the existing situation in the sector and devising a general framework for the program of the sector. One of the priorities of the Economic Council after the present budget is presented to the Majles is to study and decide the essential policies of the Second Plan.

I hope the second Five-Year Plan will provide the grounds to improve management and organization, increase productivity in the national economic system, and provide the government with the possibility to concentrate the government resources as much as possible on the implementation of fundamental social and

scientific activities and the improvement of the general conditions of social life for the citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Global heathenism, through its false analyses, thought that the economic problems and the political and economic pressures of the oppressors could destroy the Islamic revolution. Today, it looks with despair for other solutions to achieve its sinister goals. The success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years has, unfortunately, provoked the enemies of the country to various actions. The Zionist government, with the support of the oppressors, presents the Islamic Republic as a major threat. These hostile anxieties have caused various organized and coordinated provocations. Among the issues discussed recently about Iran is the issue of human rights, even though our country is one of the few countries in the Persian Gulf and Middle East region that has democratic freedoms, a popularly elected government, and a free and independent Majles elected from among the people. Our country has the greatest amount of freedom of the press, speech, and the pen, indeed in the expression of opinions. At the same time, the international organizations that claim to support human rights have ignored for years the behavior of the dictatorial governments that have held the historical record for injustice, cruelty, and tormenting the people and have ignored the violation of basic human rights, the violation of the right to choose, and the elimination of any sort of political and social freedom in the countries dependent on the oppressors.

For the oppressors, who have the longest history of creating, preserving, and supporting dictatorial regimes among the countries of the world, it is difficult to see a country that has a popular government among the imposed and unpopular governments. The mere existence of this contradiction from the perspective of the interests of the oppressors is of grave concern. In this connection, they make every effort to present the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country with expansionist tendencies, whereas the report card of the Islamic Republic of Iran shows that we pay attention to nothing but peace and stability in the region, and we are interested in nothing but the progress of the nations in the region.

Another noteworthy point that has been discussed lately is in connection with the strengthening of the defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This point is also discussed by the enemies of the country in order to make political and propaganda gains. As in the past, the supreme leader and the various officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no aggressive goal and continually follows the objective of having a deterrent defensive force at a normal level. If we calculate the figures of per capita military expenditures on the basis of the average cost for each person in the

population of countries, the per capita defense expenditures in the Islamic Republic of Iran are by far lower than in many countries in the region. In our opinion, the most important defense investments of our country are the revolutionary and self-sacrificing people of the country. The faith, belief, and sacrifice of the people cannot be replaced by any equipment or hardware purchased from other countries. Hence, the creation of commotion, a propaganda climate, and exaggerations about the arms purchases and the arms programs of the country must not misguide the minds of the realistic people and governments of the region. In any case, it seems that a new wave of provocation and hostility by global oppressors is being prepared against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Confronting these provocations will require attention to various points, including the following:

1. Necessary internal coordination in order for the country to be able to continue its reconstruction and construction programs, despite all the external problems. This makes increasing productivity, increasing the level of activities, preventing the waste of resources, expanding internal abilities, and relying on affairs related to development and research in various areas inevitable.
2. The decisionmaking system should have sufficient unity and coordination in order to be able to prepare and implement the necessary reactions at any time. Hence, it is necessary to avoid superficial differences of opinion and taste and, in the area of content, to cooperate and think together at a satisfactory level.
3. Prevent in the affairs concerning political discussions, the expansion and spread of consumer expectations to attract public attention and support, and provide conditions so that instead of placing pressure on the government to facilitate more consumption, the resources of the society could be directed mostly towards creating capacities and essential investment. In this connection, it is necessary to limit government and private consumer expenditures and the volume of consumer subsidies and pay more attention to the lofty value of frugality and conservation. A society cannot, on the one hand, consume its resources and, on the other, expect growth in investments and increase in its production ability. It is necessary to note that all the perceivable and imperceptible subsidies, many of the current government expenditures and also many of the miscellaneous and scattered expenditures that are engaged in by government organizations are in fact consumer expenditures or contribute to consumption. In this connection, of particular importance is the role of the honorable Majles in cooperation with the government in properly directing these resources to support the truly needy, on the one hand, and, on the other, to free some of these resources for reconstruction and fundamental investment.

Gas Well in Khangiran Becomes Operational*93AS0406A Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 11*

[Text] Mashhad—IRNA—Yesterday Gas Well 21 in the Khangiran area of the municipality of Sarakhs went into operation. IRNA reports that this well, which was drilled over the reserves of the mercenaries, will increase the [level] sent to the Martyr Hashemi-Nezhad refinery by 6.5 percent. This well is appropriate support for procuring the consumer gas of the provinces of Khorasan and Mazandaran.

This well has a production capacity of 1.5 million cubic liters per day. All the design, implementation, and start-up operations for this well were carried out by the capable hands of the gas operation experts in the Khangiran area.

Drinking Water Provided to 60 Cities in Western Provinces*93AS0404J Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Dec 92 p 11*

[Interview with Engineer Aqajani, the general manager of the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country, by IRNA on 13 Dec 92; place not given]

[Text] Kermanshah. IRNA. Since the establishment of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, 14 border cities, which had water shortages, have been provided with drinking water by the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country.

Engineer Aqajani, the general manager of the Regional Water [Affairs Agency] of the West of the Country made this statement yesterday in an interview with the correspondent of IRNA and said: In the implementation of the first Five-Year Plan, drinking water to 46 cities in the west of the country, with a population of 2,150,000 people, has also been secured with the use of 35 km of transmission line and 80 million cubic meters of water.

Pointing out that the western region of the country, with an average annual rainfall of 600 mm in an area 118,500 square km large, ranks third in terms of water resources, after the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran, he said: Considering that some of the duties of the Construction Jihad have been conferred on the Ministry of Energy, by the end of the first Five-Year Plan the goal of the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country is to provide 303.5 million cubic meters of water annually.

Engineer Aqajani said: The Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West this year, given the special attention of the president and his allocation of 11.5 billion rials in funds and 50 billion rials in national and provincial funds and the notes concerning the better use of surface water resources, has five important dam-building projects under way in the western part of the country.

He said: In addition to converting 50,000 hectares of the dry farming lands of the above-mentioned regions to

irrigated lands, the Gavshan, Baneh, Zarivar, and Marivan dams in the province of Kurdistan, the reservoir dam of Cham-e Gordelan in the province of Ilam, and the reservoir dam of Gilan-e Gharb in the province of Bakhtaran, for the implementation of which preparations are being made, will also provide the drinking water of the cities of Kermanshah, Ilam, and Baneh in the long term.

The general manager of the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country said: In step with the implementation of important dam building projects, water outreach has been implemented in the cities of Sanqez and Kangavar, in the province of Bakhtaran; Saqqez, in the province of Kurdistan; Nurabad, Borujerd, and Aligudarz, in the province of Lorestan; Malayer, Asadabad, and Hamadan, in the province of Hamadan; and the city of Ilam, in the province of Ilam.

Pointing out that the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country handles 7 percent of the water in the whole country and provides for the needs of 13 percent of the national population, according to the 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] census, he said: The internal problems and the imposed war did not give the national officials much opportunity to make plans to make use of the total potential of the water and soil resources in this region.

He said: In the second Five-Year Plan, the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country, considering that 22 percent of the arable lands in the country are located in this region, is studying plans to build 18 reservoir dams. If the allocation of 1,600 billion rials in needed funds is approved, and it is implemented, effective steps in making use of the total potential of the water and soil resources in the west of the country will be taken.

The general manager of the Regional Water Affairs Agency of the West of the Country referred to the sudden change and the severe increase in the price of the water transmission pipes and said: With the increase in the price of every kg of water transmission pipe from 272 rials to 1,040 rials, this organization has faced a major problem.

He said: If solution is not found to this crucial problem, the progress that began in the western region during the first Five-Year Plan will end in stagnation.

It is interesting that a major part of the surface waters of the west of the country, which flow in the watersheds of the Karkheh and Sirvan Rivers, and in terms of geographic area includes the provinces of Kurdistan, Bakhtaran, Ilam, Hamadan, and Lorestan, will flow to Iraq without the slightest industrial or agricultural use, of which 400 billion meters is from the province of Bakhtaran alone.

Heavy Snow Disrupts Connection Between Villages

93AS0404I Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Dec 92 p 15

[Interview with an official in the Construction Jihad of Yasuj by IRNA; place and date not given]

[Text] Yasuj. IRNA. Following the snowfall last week, ground communications to 34 villages around the city of Boyer Ahmad continued to be severed.

An official of the Construction Jihad of Yasuj made this announcement to the correspondent of IRNA and said: At the present time, ground communications between 1,700 families and other neighboring villages have been severed, and the inhabitants of these neighboring villages and the city of Yasuj have faced problems in terms of procuring their needs.

He added: At the present time, the old roads of Shabliz-Zila'i Margu-Haft Cheshmeh, Shabliz-Chelaleh, and Sepidar-Poshtkuh Jalil, a suburb of Boyer Ahmad, are closed. He mentioned that a total of 700 km of rural roads are located in the city of Boyer Ahmad and pointed out that 400 km of these roads require snow removal, for which the available resources are not sufficient.

This source pointed out: At the present time, four graders are available to reopen the rural roads in this city, one of which is under repair. He mentioned the main problem of reopening the roads in this city in winter to be the shortage or lack of funds and pointed out: This year, no funds have been allocated to this institution for snow removal from roads.

This source added: At the present time, 15 villages in Sepidar, Zila'i, and Sadat Mahmudi in the suburbs of the city of Boyer Ahmad lack roads.

Shiraz Petrochemical Complex Production Up

93AS0404H Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Dec 92 p 11

[Interview with Izadi, the head of the public relations office of the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex, by IRNA on 13 Dec 92; place not given]

[Text] Shiraz. IRNA. The production of the Shiraz Petrochemical complex has reached 486,000 tons since the beginning of the year, which compared to a similar period last year shows an increase of 740 percent.

Izadi, the head of the public relations office of the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex, made this announcement yesterday to the correspondent of IRNA and said: The production of the large ammonia unit of Zone 2 of this complex has exceeded the designed capacity and has now reached the unprecedented level of production of 1,210 tons per day.

He added: This amount of production is unprecedented in the 30-year history of the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex.

Chemical fertilizers of uric acid and ammonium nitrate fertilizers are among the products of this unit.

Polluted Wells Threaten Villagers in Sari

93AS0404G Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Dec 92 p 11

[Interview with Engineer Mehdi Yunesian, a Mazandaran Medical Sciences University professor, on 13 Dec 92 by IRNA; place not given]

[Text] Sari. IRNA. Pollution of the surface wells in the villages in the north of Sari seriously threatens the health of nearly 20,000 residents in these villages.

Engineer Mehdi Yunesian, a Mazandaran Medical Sciences University professor, said yesterday to an IRNA reporter: Research concerning surface water in 18 villages in the north of Sari shows that the wells are so polluted you could say that the residents of these villages are using sewage instead of water.

He said: Unfortunately, some of the villagers have failed to observe the appropriate distance between the water wells and the sewage wells. Considering that the surface waters are polluted by human waste and run-off of chemicals from agricultural lands, all of which penetrates into the wells, the probability of the appearance of infectious diseases among the inhabitants of these regions is very high.

He said: In an area of the coast where there are public beaches as well, the transmission of disease through the settling and infiltration of waste water exists. In summer, when tourists come to this region, special health controls must be imposed by the health officials.

Engineer Yunesian added: Considering the numerous factors in the pollution of surface water wells and the danger for villagers who make use of these sources for drinking water, emphasis must be placed on observing the principles of water improvement, chlorination of water, and guidance by the officials of the health centers in the regions.

Khorramshahr, Abadan Customs To Become Operational

93AS0404F Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Ahvaz, SALAM Correspondent. If funds and facilities are provided, by 22 Bahman [11 Feb] this year, in addition to the Khorramshahr Customs, the Abadan Customs will also become operational. This statement was announced in a meeting held to find ways to make the customs and ports of the cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan more active in the presence of the deputy director of national customs and the governor general of Khuzestan in the office of the governor of Khorramshahr.

According to our correspondent, in this session in which the governor of Abadan and Khorramshahr as well as several officials of the province attended, Engineer

Tabesh, the governor general of Khuzestan, referred to the vital importance of Khorramshahr port in the economy and employment of the region and said: Starting the operations of the Khorramshahr port and carrying out exports and imports from this port will play a significant role in the economic life and employment of the region. This requires special attention in order to activate the Customs of Khorramshahr and Abadan as soon as possible.

The governor general of Khuzestan pointed out that today the world is watching how we proceed in reconstructing Khorramshahr and Abadan and said: The reconstruction pictures in the Islamic Republic are only of the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, and if these two pictures are not good pictures, we will not be holding our heads high in the world. For this reason, we must employ all of our abilities and efforts to make the reconstruction pictures of these two cities shine. The governor of Khuzestan, in conclusion, asked the director general of customs to allocate special facilities for trade to make Khorramshahr port thrive. Then Mr. Mohammad Khan, the deputy director general of the customs, announced the readiness of the customs to make the Khorramshahr port more active and said: The need to resume the activities and traffic of goods in Khorramshahr port is an inevitable issue, and it is our intention, through expert work, to accomplish this task. In another part of his speech, he added: If trade and the trend of exports and imports becomes active, certainly investments will be absorbed in the region. After the conclusion of this session, the deputy director general of customs along with the governor general of Khuzestan and the accompanying group visited the port and facilities of Khorramshahr.

According to the report of our correspondent, also the issue of urban development in the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr was examined in a session in the presence of the governor general in the office of the governor of Abadan.

In this session, first the director of the Karbala Road Office presented a report on the physical progress of the plans and projects underway, including Bridges 1 and 2 of Bahmanshir.

Then the governor general described the importance of the reconstruction of the bridge of Station 7 of Abadan and asked the Karbala road director to carry out the necessary export studies and present a report on the reconstruction of the above-mentioned bridge. Then the urban development projects of Khorramshahr were discussed by the governor and mayor of that city, and after examination and exchanges of views, the necessary funds for the first phase in starting the operations were allocated.

Returning POW Faced With Housing Shortage

93AS0404E Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Asadabad. SALAM Correspondent. A number of the self-sacrificers of the city of Asadabad who were given land for housing by the Urban Land Office have faced loan problems. This group, by selling jewelry and home furnishings, have procured the money and succeeded in obtaining building permits from City Hall. Despite being introduced to the Housing Bank in Asadabad by the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificers, they were unable to get housing loans. One of the self-sacrificers told our correspondent in that city: I obtained a building permit to build a residential unit with 120 meters under construction. But they told me they can only give me a loan for 75 square meters under construction. Again, I took steps to obtain the permit for that amount and was introduced by the Foundation to get a loan, but did not succeed. He added: At the present time, I am a tenant and pay 30,000 rials in rent. This self-sacrificer asked the concerned officials to investigate this problem.

Capital of Consumer Cooperatives To Be Increased

93AS0404D Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Dec 92 p 11

[Interview with the general manager of the Cooperative Office of Sistan and Baluchestan by IRNA on 7 Dec 1992; place not given]

[Text] Based on the ratification of the Cabinet, all Consumer Cooperative Companies throughout the country will increase their capital and their purchasing power through the help of the government employees who are paid monthly.

The general manager of the Cooperative Office of Sistan and Baluchestan announced this statement on Monday and told the correspondent of IRNA: After coordination with their employees, the ministries will deduct 3,000 rials per month from the salaries of employees and deposit them in the account of the Employees' Consumer Cooperative Companies.

He added: The ratification of the Cabinet is carried out in order to implement the economic modification policy and prevent recession in the activities of the Consumer Cooperative Companies following the removal of the support of the Ministry of Commerce in providing goods for such companies.

He added: With the implementation of this ratification, the Employees Consumer Cooperative Companies will have more capital on hand and procure their goods directly from producing factories.

The general manager of the Cooperative Office of Sistan and Baluchestan added: The National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization has also made

government organizations assist the Consumer Cooperative Companies in terms of space for vehicles and manpower. This method will continue until the companies are self-sufficient.

Thousands of Liters of Heating Fuel Distributed

93AS0404C Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Dec 92 p 11

[Interview with Barati, the head of the Tribal Affairs Office of Birjand, by IRNA on 7 Dec 92; place not given]

[Text] Birjand. IRNA. The Tribal Affairs Office of Birjand distributed 41,000 liters of heating fuel by tankers last week between 450 families in the tribal region of Sarbisheh District of the city of Birjand.

Barati, the head of the Tribal Affairs Office of Birjand, said yesterday in an interview with IRNA: With this action, the tribes in the above-mentioned regions were able to secure their needed fuel until the end of winter.

He said: Last year, due to the lack of tankers to transport fuel and the failure to distribute heating fuel on time, the tribes in this region faced severe shortage of heating fuel and purchased their needed heating fuel at high prices from Afghan refugees.

He added: Also, in order to secure foodstuff for the tribes, the tribal affairs office of this city distributed 190 tons of flour between the tribes of the districts of Sarbisheh and Khusef and the city of Birjand last month.

New Appointments at Khomeyni University Announced

93AS0406P Tehran SALAM in Persian 19 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Qazvin—SALAM Correspondent—In separate decrees issued by Dr. Mohammad Taqikhani, chief of Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) International University in Qazvin, eight deputies and consultants to the president of this university were appointed and started to work.

In the decrees, Mr. Hasan Ra'isian was appointed vice president for financial administration, Dr. Hoseyn Emanieh was appointed vice president for instruction, Dr. Mas'ud Rajabi was appointed vice president for research, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Rahmani was appointed vice president for students, Sa'id Habiba was appointed consultant to the university president and supervisor of the central university office, Engineer Seyyed Hoseyn Parvin-Nia was appointed consultant and executive official for development projects, Professor 'Abbas Qane' was appointed consultant for university artistic affairs, and Dr. 'Ali Khoda'i was appointed consultant for international affairs and the supervisor of the office of academic and international cooperation.

Kho'i Telephone Numbers Become 5 Digits

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[Text] Orumiyyeh—IRNA—With the continued development of the telephone network in the municipality of Kho'i in West Azarbaijan, as of yesterday morning, Thursday, the numbers of all the telephones in this city will be increased from four digits to five.

IRNA, quoting the general manager of communications of West Azarbaijan, reports that all the telephones in the municipality of Khoei will have the number two added to the left side.

300 Couples Married in Tabriz in Mass Ceremony

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[Text] Tabriz—SALAM Correspondent—On the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimeh (peace be upon her), during ceremonies attended by Ayatollah Malakuti, a group of officials and general managers, a group of guilds and merchants in Tabriz, charitable people and families of the newlyweds, 300 young couples celebrated their marriages under the mantle of the Imam's Aid Committee in the province of East Azarbaijan.

During these ceremonies, Ayatollah Malakuti, representative of the vice-regent of the Muslims in East Azarbaijan, and the Friday imam of Tabriz gave speeches about the exalted position of her holiness Fatimeh Zahra, the position of women, and also the importance of marriage. He congratulated the newlyweds and gave each of them the gift of a springtime of freedom coin on behalf of the leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

It is worth mentioning that the dowries of the brides, which include a refrigerator, a television, a machine-made carpet and other various goods, which were provided by the merchant guilds and charitable individuals, were collected by the Chamber of Commerce. During these ceremonies art groups also staged artistic performances.

Food Production, Distribution, Sale Centers Close

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[Text] Semnan—IRNA—During the implementation of the project to establish hygiene in the centers for food procurement, distribution, storage and sale, 79 centers in the province of Semnan were closed and ordered to stop operating.

IRNA's correspondent reports that these centers, which operated in various areas, were closed during the month of Aban [23 Oct-21 Nov] in the cities of Semnan, Damghan, Shahrud and Garmsar.

During this period, likewise during the inspection of 2,678 centers for food procurement, distribution, storage, and sale in the province of Semnan, while warnings were given to 538 centers, the names of the owners of 134 centers were also turned over to the court.

In this regard, through the work of workers in the Semnan Province health-care area, 87 of these centers were improved.

Likewise, for the purpose of identifying those in charge of procuring foods such as chelow kebab shops, bakeries, urban and roadside restaurants, ice cream sellers and others, four educational sessions were held and emphasis was placed on the best possible adherence to health regulations.

Storage for Agricultural Products Established

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[Text] Esfahan—SALAM Correspondent—The Agricultural Council of the province of Esfahan held a meeting in the Esfahan governor general's office attended by Engineer Jahangiri, governor general of Esfahan, the governors of Esfahan, Shahreza, Samirom, Faridan and Faridunshahr, and other members.

Discussed at this meeting was the cultivation of potatoes and onions, the desirability of these two crops, and the coordination that has been done to purchase these crops.

Then, in view of the importance the government ascribes to the matter of agriculture, emphasis was placed on the construction of warehouses to keep the crops of farmers and to protect these people and their products.

Also discussed at this meeting was the matter of desert reclamation and the danger posed by drifting sand in the Sagzi area of Esfahan.

To stop the drifting sand a proposal was made to establish industries in these areas and the issues and problems of that were studied and discussed. It was decided to make the drifting sands stabilization project in the Sagzi area of Esfahan the top priority in the Province of Esfahan, and that within one month the project design would be prepared by the Province of Esfahan General Natural Resources Office and presented at a meeting of the province Agricultural Council.

Country's Electricity Production Detailed

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[Text] In the first six months of the current year [21 Mar-23 Sep 1992], power production by the nation's electrical power plants reached 32.956 million megawatt hours, an increase of 4.1 percent over the same period last year.

The public relations office of the Tavanir Company reports that of this amount of produced energy, 27.574 million megawatt [MW] hours came from thermal power plants and 5.382 million MW hours came from hydraulic power plants.

Of all the electrical energy produced in this period, 29.623 million MW hours were produced within the national network, and 3.333 million MW hours were

produced outside the national network, showing growth of 4.2 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively, over the same period last year.

This report also announced that at the end of the first six months of the current year the nation's practical power plant capability reached 13,992 MW, and the utilization capability of the power plants reached 11,950 MW, representing of 8.9 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively, in the national network and outside the national network compared to last year.

The fuel consumed by the nation's power plants to produce electrical power in the first six months of 1371 was 2,468 million liters of furnace oil, a decrease of 14 percent; 573 million liters of gasoil, representing growth of 16.52 percent; and about 5,031 million cubic meters of natural gas, representing growth of 6.1 percent.

Workers on Admission to Free Islamic University

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[Text] Kerman—IRNA—On Friday (27 Azar [18 Dec]) a group of worker members of the Kerman Worker's Home protested the failure to admit them to the Islamic Free University.

Based on an agreement signed on 19 Khordad 1370 [9 Jun 1991] between the Kerman Worker's Home and the Free Islamic University, a number of workers in government and private units could study at this university to graduate at the expert level.

In this regard, a number of workers were referred for the accounting program, and after taking 600 hours of pre-university classes and the specialist examination, they were to have been admitted to the university.

On examination day (27 Azar), despite the fact that admissions cards to the test had been issued to the workers, test officials prevented them from sitting for the test.

These people, who paid 255,000 rials to take the aforementioned course, asked that this situation be investigated.

Country Said To Be on Brink of Malaria Epidemic

93AS0406J Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—Because it is a neighbor of Afghanistan and Pakistan and because of the presence in the nation's southeastern provinces of stagnant water, which is a suitable breeding ground for insects carrying malaria (anophelene mosquitos), Iran is always faced with the danger of the spread of this disease.

In announcing this, Dr. Sa'id Namaki, deputy minister of health, health care and medical education for health care affairs, said that cooperation and coordination is necessary with officials of the nations of Pakistan and Afghanistan in eradicating malaria in the border cities

between these two nations, and it is also necessary to spray stagnant waters in the nation's southeastern provinces.

In an interview with press correspondents, he added: The eggs from various types of anophelene mosquitos grow in stagnant waters and after they mature, if they bite an individual infected with malaria, and then they bite a healthy person, the healthy person will also be infected.

IRNA's correspondent reports that Dr. Namaki said: In this regard, if all the health care and preventive measures are taken inside the country, mosquitos and also infected emigrants coming from the cities bordering the nation will come into our country and spread this infection.

The deputy minister of health, health care, and medical education for health care affairs added: In view of the sampling and the emergency campaign to control malaria, which has been carried by this ministry's health care personnel, our country is divided into three areas with regard to malaria infection.

These areas include the northern Zagros mountains, which includes 40 million people and has very insignificant contamination, the northern central plateau of Iran, and the northern and northeastern provinces.

Another area is the west and southwestern part of the country, with six infections per 1,000 and a population of 15 million, and this number of infections has also come completely under control.

The third area of malaria contamination in the country is the southeastern provinces, including Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormozegan, and part of the province of Kerman, with a population of 2.7 million. The rate of malaria infection there in the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] was 16.48 persons per 1,000, and this rate of infection has decreased 50 percent through the efforts of health-care officials in the area.

Dr. Namaki added: Based on information obtained, in the Pakistani cities neighboring the province of Sistan va Baluchestan the rate of this infection is 200 to 400 per 1,000. With the planning that has been done, we intend to bring this problem under control jointly with Pakistan.

He said: Based on an emergency program, in addition to spraying operations and the diagnosis and training of health-care personnel, with the cooperation of the College of Health Care and the Institute of Health Care Research, malaria research stations are to be established in the cities of Iranshahr, Kazerun and Bandar 'Abbas.

In the same regard, on Friday a three-month course will be opened in Bandar 'Abbas by Dr. Malekzadeh, minister of health, covering the diagnosis and control of malaria and with the participation of health-care experts in the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormozegan and Kerman.

By prior agreement, the Afghanistani minister of health, Iranian officials, and three Afghan experts will also participate in this course.

The deputy minister of health for health-care affairs added: Every year about 300 million people in the world, especially in the African nations, are infected with malaria, of which 1 million die. Last year in our country several cases were reported, two of whom died in the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan and Esfahan because of the failure to report in time.

He said: In view of the increase of this disease in the world, there is felt in the country the necessity to do serious and comprehensive planning to diagnose, control and fight this disease, and it needs the cooperation and assistance of Majles deputies and the officials of the Plan and Budget Organization.

Official on Lack of Investments in Industries

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[Text] The Khorasan reconstruction crusade, in order to develop rural industry, has issued an agreement in principle for the implementation of 17 new industrial projects in the municipality of Behbahan.

IRNA's correspondent reports that the manager of the reconstruction crusade in Nehbandan, in announcing this, said: These projects include two wood industry units, six metal industry units, seven mining industry units, and two textile industry units.

To build these units and put them into service, 1.08 billion rials is being invested. When this work is completed 128 individuals will be hired.

He said: In the last two years six industrial projects including three lathe units, two jute-weaving plants, and one mosaic factory have been put into operation in this municipality and 41 people have been hired.

The manager of the Nehbandan reconstruction crusade added: Unlike in previous years, no investment is being made to start the aforementioned projects, due to the reconstruction crusade's failure to allocate credit.

He added: In Nehbandan the development of rural industry is the only way to prevent the unbridled emigration of rural people, and it is considered one of the important employment-creating resources in this deprived area.

Reconstruction Projects in Chahar Mahal, Bakhtiari

93AS0406G Tehran SALAM in Persian 19 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—In implementing the orders of the exalted leader to start the operation of development projects quickly in the deprived areas, with credits of about 74 million rials, five development projects are going into operation in Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade reports that in less than two and one-half months since the exalted leader's trip to the province of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari and in the implementation of His Excellency's orders, five development projects, including the potable water projects in the villages of Qarah, Dasht-e Pagerd, and Abchenar Dilani of the municipality of Lordegan and Bagh Alake of the municipality of Khorasan, have been put into operation, and were inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Irvani, deputy minister of the reconstruction crusade.

With the opening of these projects, 485 families have been provided with sound and clear drinking water.

It is to be mentioned that by order of the exalted leader, 42 projects were sent out to be implemented with credits from the Deprived Affairs Office, the executive vice president of the republic, the minister of the reconstruction crusade and the province of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, and construction operations are under way for all the projects.

It is expected that by time of the Islamic revolution Deheh-ye Fajr anniversary five more development projects in the province in Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari will begin operating.

Large Influx Into Qazvin Makes for Grim Employment

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[Text] Zanjan—IRNA—Unbridled emigration from the north and northwestern parts of the country to the industrial and agricultural city of Qazvin has prolonged the wait for 11,000 job seekers in this city.

Nazari, general manager of labor and social affairs in the municipality of Qazvin, said yesterday to IRNA's correspondent: This problem was exacerbated with the elimination of the economic mobilization office, and new emigrants coming to this area seeking employment also increased.

According to him, in the first eight months of this year 13,370 women and men seeking employment have registered in this office, of which 2,565 were referred to factories and production units for employment.

The Qazvin general manager of labor and social affairs added: In the same period, of a total of 507 wounded soldiers and former prisoners of war who registered in this city, 344 were referred to various units and went to work.

He said the establishment of the Second Penal Court in this general office was a very profitable measure. He said: In this way, investigation of the cases of workers is done in the shortest time possible.

Nazari said: To procure housing for workers and staff in Qazvin, 500,000 hectares of land has been allocated, and

more than 20,000 workers and staff in the municipality of Qazvin will have homes in the future.

He said: To create the means to employ those who have sacrificed, a committee has been formed in this general office composed of representatives from the Martyr Foundation, the revolutionary guards, and the Foundation for Veterans and Former Prisoners of War.

Obstacles to Large Investments in Kohkiluyeh

93AS0406E Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Yasuj—IRNA—With the use of specialist local manpower in the province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, the face of this province can be changed.

IRNA reports that the executive director of the Bushehr Province Export Bank, speaking at the opening ceremonies for the first livestock and poultry food plant in the province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, while stating the above, added: The construction of this factory was a project that faced opposition despite its usefulness.

He said: The inclination towards investment and the establishment of a system of provisions in the province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad have not been achieved, and this has prevented large industrial investments in this province.

Engineer Sajjadi compared the provinces of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad. He said: In one year in Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, \$90.3 million in government and competitive foreign exchange has been invested. In the province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, however, \$400,000 in foreign exchange has been procured with difficulty for the livestock and poultry food plant.

He said that one of the reasons for the advancement of industry in Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari is the use of specialist manpower and attention by officials in this province to industry. He added: This is one of the ways in which the people of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad can be delivered from poverty and deprivation.

120-Bed Hospital Inaugurated in Orumiyeh

93AS0406D Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Orumiyeh—IRNA—On the auspicious occasion of the joyous birth anniversary of His Holiness the Prophet (peace be upon him) and the birth anniversary of the founder of the Islamic Republic, the 120-bed hospital in Orumiyeh was inaugurated into service.

IRNA's correspondent reports that this hospital, called the Martyr Haj Mansur 'Arefian Relief Hospital, was equipped and put into operation by the revolutionary guard Northwest Area Health Care Center. According to the commander of the Northwest Area Health Care Center, in this hospital there are now five physicians, 50

nurses, and 50 nurses' aides in various specialties working around the clock serving combatants and other people.

Martyr Arefian Hospital of Urmia can be expanded to 150 beds, and in view of the needs of the area, special priority has been given to the hospital's gynecology and maternity wards. This is the second hospital of its type in the northwest area to be equipped and put into service in the last years by the revolutionary guard Northwest Area Health Care Center.

The first hospital, named Martyr Mahallati, began operating in Tabriz last year with 150 beds. Martyr Arefian Hospital in Orumiyeh has a gynecological surgery ward, four operating rooms, a radiology department, sonography and a laboratory, and all the women patients are being treated by women doctors.

The hospital building, which was formerly used by the Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shahid (peace be upon him) police station, was equipped and put into operation by local officials.

Quetta-Zahedan Train Resumes Service

93AS0406C Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Eslamabad—IRNA—Repairs on part of the Pakistan railroad in this country's State of Baluchestan that caused the suspension of operations of the Quetta-Zahedan railroad were completed yesterday.

Reports received say that damage caused by the collapse of part of the Pakistan Railroad, which was flooded due to severe rainfall in the Dalbandin and Ahmadval area, is being repaired and rebuilt by workers. On Saturday of this week the destruction of this part of the Pakistan railroad caused the Quetta-Zahedan Railroad to suspend operations.

Excess Rice Bought Back From Planters

93AS0406B Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Rasht—IRNA—The Rural Cooperatives Organization of this province has purchased 1.18 million kg of surplus white and rough rice from the Gilan Province rice growers.

Engineer Najafi, executive director of the Gilan Rural Cooperatives Organization announced yesterday: Of this amount, 1.14 million kg was white rice and 40,000 kg was rough rice (rice with husk). He discussed the continuation of the purchase of surplus rice from rice growers to protect the producer and the consumer. He added: The purchase of this amount of surplus crop from rice growers has been going on since early in the month of Mehr [23 Sep-22 Oct], the "end of the harvest season."

He added: Caspian Sea Rice has been bought from farmers at 950 to 1,030 rials, unnamed rice at 1,060 to 1,180 rials, and Sadri at 1,320 to 1,420 rials, and this is considered an important step towards supporting rice growers. He noted: These crops have been purchased to meet the needs of organizations and worker and staff consumer cooperatives throughout the country. Some of it has been sold and some of it is ready to sell.

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